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Viewing cable 08RIYADH1114, CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORK PROGRESSES IN RIYADH

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

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Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08RIYADH1114	2008-07-19 09:43	2011-08-30 01:44	SECRET	Embassy Riyadh

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2011/06/13/115715/wikileaks-cables-show-worry-about.html>

VZCZCXRO1560
PP RUEHDE RUEHDIR
DE RUEHRH #1114/01 2010943
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
P 190943Z JUL 08
FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8818
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHHH/OPEC COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEAHLA/HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 0229
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY
RHRMAKS/COMUSNAVCENT PRIORITY
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 RIYADH 001114

SIPDIS

P FOR U/S WBURNS
NEA FOR DAS GGRAY

DEPT OF ENERGY PASS TO A/S KKOLEVAR, MWilliamson, GPERSON,
AND JHART
S/CT FOR GFEIERSTEIN, SUSAN BURK, GAIL ROBERTSON, AND
BAVERILL
DS/ATA FOR KMALOY
TREASURY PASS TO A/S CLOWERY
DHS PASS TO TWARRICK AND DGRANT
CIA PASS TO TCOYNE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/19/2018

TAGS: [KCIP](#) [EPET](#) [ENERG](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [SA](#)

SUBJECT: CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORK PROGRESSES IN RIYADH

REF: SECSTATE 70793

Classified By: DCM Michael Gfoeller for
reasons 1.4 (b) (c) and (d).

1. (U) This cable has been cleared by
DOE A/S Kevin Kolevar.

2. (S) During a July 8 visit to Riyadh, DOE A/S Kevin
Kolevar met with Ministry of Interior representatives
Joint Working Group (JWG) on Critical Infrastructure
Protection (CIP) Co-Chair Dr. Saud A-Semari and Dr.
Khalid Al-Ageel, Manager, High Commission on Industrial
Security. The U.S. JWG Co-Chair Economic Counselor
Robert Murphy participated, as did a delegation from
DOE and the Embassy. Major outcomes of the
discussions included:

Abqaiq Assessment to Move Forward

3. (S) Dr. Al-Semari told us the Saudis are
now ready to move forward with a complete
Vulnerability Assessment (VA) of Saudi Aramco's
Abqaiq Plants. We are scheduling a visit by DOE
and Sandia Lab personnel for early August to
conduct the VA. This is a key win for the Joint
Working Group. DOE's Office of Electricity
Delivery and Energy Reliability is able to finance
the VA, as we meanwhile work to finalize procedures
for future Saudi financing of bilateral CIP efforts
under the May 2008 Technical Cooperation Agreement
signed by Secretary Rice.

--Background to Abqaiq Plants: Abqaiq is the
world's single largest petroleum processing
and de-sulphurization facility. About 70% of
Saudi crude production passes through Abqaiq
for processing. The facility is critical to
the world's petroleum markets. It has a through-
put capacity of 7 million-plus barrel per day
(bpd) capacity, of which 6.3 mbpd are routinely
utilized.

--The VA is an in-depth, technical review of
the facility's operational and security systems.
The VA includes a 2-week on-site data collection
and discussion period, followed by a month-long
data analysis period. A Sandia National Labs
team will analyze Abqaiq data utilizing its VA
computer models. The Saudi MOI would receive VA
results and recommendations within about one month
after completion of the on-site data collection.
JWG members regard successful completion of the VA
as one of our highest priorities, and a template
for facility-based work in the future.

--We are particularly concerned to identify Abqaiq
components which were custom-manufactured several
decades ago, in the 1970s, and for which Saudi
Aramco may have no replacements or spare parts.
Such single-point failures would be of grave concern.
Saudi Aramco personnel have not been able to provide
a clear picture of these vulnerabilities during past

short visits to Abqaiq by JWG personnel. An in-depth analysis of Abqaiq's engineering plans and drawings, along with extended access to and discussion with key technical personnel, are required to better understand the plant's specific vulnerabilities.

--The VA also will help us to better advise the MOI and Saudi Aramco on how to design security systems to protect Abqaiq, and for contingency planning to prepare for any possible attack on the facility. Such planning would allow Saudi Aramco and the MOI to better mitigate long-term damage, ensure maximum possible continuity of operations, and respond and recover as swiftly as possible.

MOI Requests Threat Warning System Assistance

14. (C) The MOI had expressed an interest in adopting a national threat warning system, and had requested a briefing on systems in use in the U.S. During the July 8 meeting, DOE Infrastructure System Analyst VanderMey therefore presented on U.S. threat warning systems, including DHS's Homeland Security Advisory System and the U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Security System (MARSEC). Our MOI interlocutors were particularly impressed to learn how the USG works with industry in implementing the threat warning system, sharing information on an as-needed basis, and even sponsoring some industry personnel for security clearances so that information could be better shared. The group also discussed the utility of restricting a specific threat warning to a given region, city, or industrial sector.

15. (C) Dr. Saud-Al Semari requested the USG make available one employee who is familiar with the U.S. threat warning systems for a 6-12 month period to assist the MOI in implementing a similar system for Saudi Arabia. A/S Kolevar stated that he believed he could work with DHS or DOE to make such a person available, although perhaps for a shorter, more focused period of time.

MOI Proposes Intelligence Liaison
Offices with Key Sectoral Ministries

16. (S) Dr. Al Semari then steered the discussion towards how the USG structured its intelligence-sharing and liaison functions for agencies such as DHS and DOE. A/S Kolevar explained that the Department of Energy had its own intelligence division, but that it largely played a liaison role with the larger intelligence services. He, Economic Counselor Murphy, and Energy Analyst Burke also explored the frequent practice of seconding personnel between departments, offices, and functions to allow for better intelligence sharing.

17. (S) Dr. Al-Semari stated it would be useful for the MOI to establish a liaison office within MOI to better communicate with key sectoral ministries such as the Ministry of Petroleum (MinPet) and Transportation, or alternately, seek to establish liaison offices within these ministries. He noted that while the High Commission on Industrial Security (which oversees security and safety issues at parastatals such as Saudi Aramco and SABIC) had deepened ties with industry, the MOI still has no clear mechanism for working easily with other ministries. Dr. Al Semari concurred with Econ Off

that having liaison personnel imbedded in a ministry would establish a more effective, on-going relationship, which could help ensure key counterpart ministers address security issues with appropriate understanding and seriousness.

¶8. (SBU) Regarding reftel A, Economic Counselor Robert Murphy hand-delivered the letter from U/S Burns to HRH Assistant Minister of Interior for Security Affairs Prince Mohammed bin Nayif on July 7. 2

Comment

¶9. (C) The Mission was pleased -- on two levels -- to hear Dr. Al-Semari initiate the idea of establishing an MOI intelligence liaison to improve communication with other ministries. First, it will help the MOI function and communicate better with other key ministries who require security information to address their sector's challenges. Additionally, this is the first time within the JWG that the MOI has proposed a systemic change to improve its communication with other organizations. We have spent the last two years working closely with the MOI, encouraging them to coordinate and communicate with other parts of the government and industry on security issues. The MOI now appears to be thinking deeply and independently about how to apply these lessons to its own environment in a manner appropriate to Saudi norms. This is a small but we hope significant harbinger of progress to come.

FRAKER